THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a)

Region	Average sale price per kg.	Approximate computed cost of production
Northern (Delhi)	Rs. 23.20	Rs. 22.65
Western (Bombay)	Rs. 24.00	Rs. 23.60
Southern (Madras)	Rs. 23.75	Rs. 23.35
Eastern (Calcutta)	Rs. 24.40	Rs. 23.65

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for variation in prices in different regions are difference in local taxes, freight charges and weighted average cost of the oils used in the manufacture of vanaspati.

Drought assistance to Maharashtra State by Central Government

849. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any basis or criterion has been fixed to determine the amount of drought assistance to be given to the States by the Central Government;

(b) whether any assistance has been given to Maharashtra State in response to their demand to meet the serious problem in their State;

(c) whether Government considers the amount sanctioned adequate enough keeping in view of the enormity of the problem; and

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to increase the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The policy for financing relief expenditure is based on the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission and Government decisions thereon. Though the State Governments are primarily responsible for financing of relief, the Central Government supplements their efforts if necessary. As recommended by the 8th Finance Commission, an amount of Rs. 240.75 crores per annum is allocated as Marg in Money to the States, of which 50 per cent is contributed by the Central Government. The State Governments provide the balance 50 per cent in their budgets. On the occurrence of a natural calamity, the concerned State Government meets the expenditure from its share of margin money and is entitled to draw the Central contribution after exhausting its own share. If the expenditure requirements of a State exceeds the total margin money, it may seek assistance from the Centre. On receipt of a memorandum seeking Central assistance, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team is constituted. The Inter-Ministerial Team consisting of experts from different disciplines visits the affected areas to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. The Central Team holds detailed discussions with the State Government officials and also has discussions with the people's representatives in order to make an objective assessment of the situation. On the basis of the field visits, discussions and taking into account the Central norms for various items and plan provisions available with the State Government for various schemes, the Central Team submits a report recommending item-wise ceilings of expenditure. In case

the requirement is not large and an assessment can be made without sending a Central Team, an Inter-Ministerial Group considers the matter. On the basis of the report of CentralTeam or the Inter-Ministerial Group and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, ceilings of expenditure are sanctioned for the States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Surrender of posts in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies

850. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts surrendered under 5 per cent cut and other economy measures during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies and its attached offices, separately-category-wise, Gazetted and non-gazetted;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant for the last one year in each cadre, cadre-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that surrendered posts mostly belong to technical non-ministerial cadre, if so, the number of such posts cadre-wise, surrendered, gazetted and non-gazetted;

(d) whether it is also a fact that inspite of reduction in strength, staff in the administration has remained the same if not, the number of posts effected, cadre-wise, gazetted and non-gazetted in the administration; and

(a) the amount saved by reducing the strength during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 and the amount likely to be saved during 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

851. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in various States;

(b) what Central assistance was provided to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras during each of the last three years; and

(c) what had been the main achievements of these Krishi Vigyan Kendras during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The details of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in various States are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of KVKs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	2
4.	Bihar	8
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	5
7.	Haryana	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
10.	Karnataka	5
11.	Kerala	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5
13.	Maharashtra	6
14	Manipur	1
15.	Meghalaya	1
16.	Mizoram	1
17.	Nagaland	1